

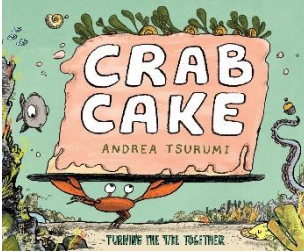


## 20 Favorites from 2020

Books read & loved by your Children's Librarian  
Click on the title to request the book from the library!

### Five Favorite Zoom Storytime Reads

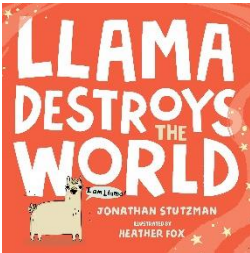
*Zoom Storytime wasn't quite the same as in-person storytime, but we made the best of it anyway! Here are five of the fun books we read together virtually:*



#### **Crab Cake: Turning the Tide Together**

by Andrea Tsurumi

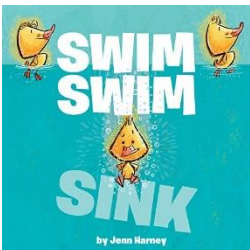
*The title pun went right over the kids' heads, but I still got a kick out of this cake-baking crab!*



#### **Llama Destroys the World**

by Jonathan Stutzman; illustrated by Heather Fox

*I tried my best to keep a straight face while reading this but fell apart at the line, "He was a llama of science." The funniest book I read aloud all year!*



#### **Swim Swim Sink**

by Jenn Harney

*This poor duckling has quite a time of it at first, but manages to come up with an ingenious solution to his swimming problem.*



#### **The Pigeon Has to Go to School!**

by Mo Willems

*The Pigeon is truly an expert at meltdowns, but this one may be his best yet! Hilarious from start to finish.*



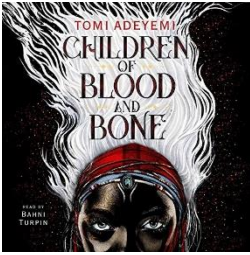
#### **Two Dogs on a Trike**

by Gabi Snyder; illustrated By Robin Rosenthal

*At first glance, this looks like just another counting book. The illustrations reveal another story entirely, however...*

## Five Favorite Juvenile & YA Audiobooks

*I listened to a ton of fantastic audiobooks this year! Here are five of my favorites:*



### **Children of Blood and Bone**

by Tomi Adeyemi; narrated by Bahni Turpin

ages 14-18

*Bahni Turpin just kills the narration in this intense YA fantasy novel. I was hooked from start to finish.*

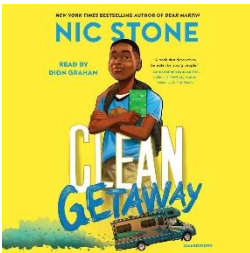


### **Clap When You Land**

by Elizabeth Acevedo; narrated by Elizabeth Acevedo & Melania-Luisa Marte

ages 13-17

*I loved listening to Elizabeth Acevedo's other YA novels and so was excited when her latest book was published earlier this year. This novel in verse did not disappoint.*

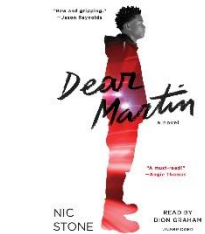


### **Clean Getaway**

by Nic Stone; narrated by Dion Graham

ages 8-12

*I am not-so-secretly in love with the narrator Dion Graham, so I might be a bit biased in this assessment, but I thought his narration in Clean Getaway was spot-on. How he manages to switch back and forth between sounding like an annoyed middle schooler and a feisty grandmother is beyond me, but he nails it!*

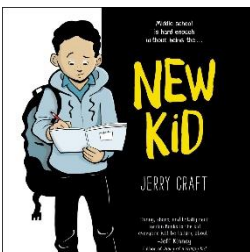


### **Dear Martin**

by Nic Stone; narrated by Dion Graham

ages 14+

*Yep, another Nic Stone + Dion Graham listen! This is the book that put Nic Stone on the map, and now that I have finally read it, it is easy to see why. The sequel came out this year and I can't wait to listen to it! Intense but valuable read.*



### **New Kid**

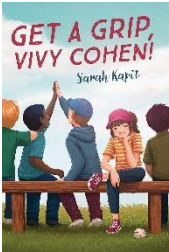
by Jerry Craft; narrated by full cast

ages 8-12

*I wasn't sure I would like this one – a graphic novel as an audiobook?? – but the narration is fantastic! All-star cast and a five-star book.*

## Five Favorite Juvenile Fiction Novels

*Contrary to popular opinion, librarians don't just sit around and read all day! Working from home gave me a chance to catch up on my juvenile fiction reading, however, and as a result I read a lot of great books this year. Here are five of my favorites:*

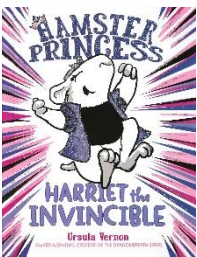


### **Get a Grip, Vivvy Cohen!**

by Sarah Kapit

ages 8-12

*Even kids who aren't on the spectrum will be able to relate to Vivvy's struggles and triumphs. An authentic voice and wonderful story.*

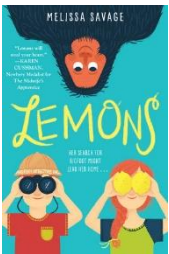


### **Hamster Princess**

by Ursula Vernon

ages 8-12

*I know I'm a bit late to the Hamster Princess party, but now I see why these books are such a hit! Harriet is a hoot and a half.*

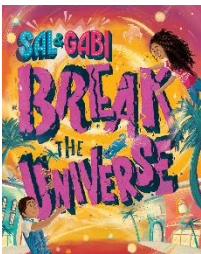


### **Lemons**

by Melissa Savage

ages 8-12

*Quirky characters and Bigfoot sightings – what's not to love? Melissa Savage addresses some difficult issues in this book without being heavy-handed about it, serving up a tartly sweet story in the process.*

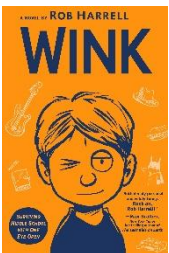


### **Sal & Gabi Break the Universe**

by Carlos Hernandez

ages 9-12

*How can you resist a title like that? This book received fantastic reviews when it was published, and I'm happy to report that it lived up to the hype.*



### **Wink**

by Rob Harrell

ages 9-12

*This was my favorite book of 2020. Rob Harrell tackles a tough subject – child cancer – with humor and sensitivity. At times I laughed so hard I cried, and other times I just cried. Highly recommended!*

## Five Favorite YA Novels

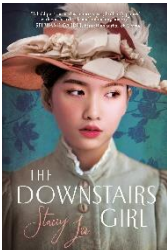
*My final MLIS class was a course on YA collection development, so I read a LOT more YA than normal! It was tough choosing just five of my favorites, but here they are:*



### **Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda**

by Becky Albertalli

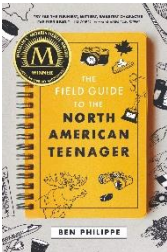
*I alternated between laughing and cringing as I watched Simon try to figure out himself, high school, and his place in the world. Oh, yeah, and the identity of his secret crush.*



### **The Downstairs Girl**

by Stacey Lee; narrated by Emily Woo Zeller

*Loved this historical fiction novel! The lead character, Jo Kuan, is spunky and sassy...and moonlights as an advice columnist for the local newspaper. It was a great audiobook, too.*



### **The Field Guide to the North American Teenager**

by Ben Philippe

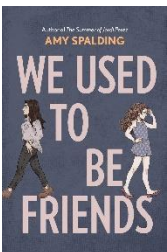
*Main character Norris Kaplan's observations about his classmates are snarky and sarcastic and highly relatable to everyone trying to survive high school! I love that the author didn't wrap everything up in a neat bow at the end.*



### **This is My Brain in Love**

by I. W. Gregorio

*Sadly, none of the Roanoke Valley libraries have this book yet! I grabbed a copy when I was the ALA Conference in January and am so glad I did. More than a love story, it's a story of two teens trying to figure out themselves, their families, their relationship, and how best to handle their mental health issues. Wonderful read.*



### **We Used to be Friends**

by Amy Spalding

*One of the best books about friendships I have read in a long time. Author Amy Spalding explores the misunderstandings and miscommunication that can lead to the demise of a friendship through two friends as they tell the story of their senior year of high school in alternating chapters and timelines. There is no neat resolution, either, making the book all the more realistic.*

**Tell us your favorite reads of 2020!**

Salem Public Library

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